



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

July 19, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

With our favorable business climate and low taxes, the Phenix City - Russell County, AL area is an ideal location for new businesses. Boasting a bi-city labor force of 150,312 people, coupled with 250 acres of available industrial sites, the area provides numerous opportunities for growth and development. The one element that could make our area more attractive to more new businesses is a faster, more robust broadband network, such as the one proposed in AT&T's merger plans with T-Mobile.

With an extensive network of highways and interstates, the Phenix City - Russell County business community enjoys easy access to consumer and industrial markets in a 16-state area. Access to reliable, wireless broadband could improve the reach of our businesses even further, overcoming geographical boundaries and targeting customer bases in other states or even other countries. The AT&T/T-Mobile merger would help many rural communities gain this access through the expansion of its wireless LTE coverage to an additional 55 million more Americans than under current plans.

A stronger network would also enhance educational opportunities for local students who, over time, populate our workforce. Students are more easily able to access research materials online and participate in distance-learning programs while teachers can benefit from collaboration with distant colleagues and experts in their field via high-speed Web access.

Moreover, as the popularity of Internet devices grows, more Americans – and American businesses – will likely rely on wireless broadband as a main source of online access. Without a strong network and reliable provider, the Phenix City-Russell County area may lose its appeal to current and prospective employers.

The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will bring a state-of-the-art wireless network that will be fast, reliable and will offer expanded coverage to rural America. Please allow our country greater access to these improved capabilities by permitting AT&T and T-Mobile to fulfill their plan to merge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor W. Cross".

Victor W. Cross
President; Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce
CC: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Citation: <http://www.pc-rcchamber.com/>